Phased Privatisation of Construction and Maintenance of Roads

123. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:
SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided or considering the proposition of phased privatisation of construction, improvement and maintenance of National Highways; and

(b) if so, the need and justification therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. 'VENKAT-RAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Construction of bridges, bypasses and stretches of Nation-al Highways which are vible on Build Operate & Transfer (BOT) basis are being taken up through private sector financing

(b) The need has arisen due to acute Snortagc of developmental funds for the National Highways and the possibility of getting private sector financing to bridge the gap.

Ship Collision in the Strait of Malacca

124. DR. MOHAN BABU:
SHRI KRISHNA KUM1AR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(b) whether a number of Indian crew members died following a Ship collision in the strait of Malacca Iceently;

(c) if so, what arc The details thcrcol stating the out-come of the inquiry con ducted into the ciroumstances leading to the tragedy; and

(d) what steps have been taken b] Government to provide relief to the Indian survivors of the crcw?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACI TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKAT RAMAN) (a) yes Sir.

(b) There was a collision between ICL VIKRAMAN, an Indian registered ship, belonging to India Cements Limited, Chennai and my. MOUNT-I of st. Vincent flag on 26-9-97. 29 of the 34 Indian crew and officers are feared to have lost their lives. Remaining 5 have been rescued and repatriated to India. An inquiry has been conducted by the Directorate Ccncral of Shipping, Mumbai. It has bccr.i revealed that the accident took Place because of non-compliance of International Regulations for Prevention of Collision, 1972, delayed manoeuvring, confusion due to use of VHF in restricted visibility and wrong manoeuvre at close proximiity.

(c) The owners of the vessel have deposited with the. Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation, Mumbai & Chennai and Shipping Master, Mumbai requisite amounts towards death compen-sation, loss of baggage and balance of wages and salaries of crew members & the officers.

केन्द्रीय सड़क निधि का अन्य कार्यों के लिए उपयोग

125. **श्री अजीत जोगीः** क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे किः

(क) क्या राज्यों को आवंटित धनराशि का राज्य सरकारों द्वारा केन्द्रीय सड़क निधि की अन्य योजनाओं हेतु उपयोग को रोकने के लिए केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा कोई निगरानी की जा रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके कारण क्या है?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री (श्री टी. जी. वेंकटरामन): (क) से (ग) केन्द्रीय सड़क निधि के तहत संस्वीकृत स्कीमों के निष्पादन की जिम्मेदारी संबंधित राज्य सरकारों की है और राज्य सरकारों से यह अपेक्षा की जाती है कि वे निधियों को उपयोग में लाए जाने की निगरानी करें।